



Adulteration

The definition of an adulterated specimen is one that contains a substance that is not expected to be present in human urine or contains a substance expected to be present but at a concentration so high that it is not consistent with human urine.

There are many ways that clients can attempt to adulterate a sample. Adulteration occurs when a client has either tried to physically tamper with or add an adulterant to their urine sample. Some adulterant products include; bleach, Visine, acids, surfactants (soaps), fixatives (glues), and oxidants like Drano.

Urine specimens collected at all TASC facilities are collected by visual monitoring – the direct observation of sample collection. This dramatically reduces the possibility of the donor tampering or adulterating the sample. The temperature of the sample is routinely checked by the collector as well to ensure the urine is of normal body temperature, 90° - 100° Fahrenheit. Specimens that exhibit unusual odors or physical characteristics are subject to a battery of adulterant testing. Included in TASC's adulteration panel are assays for creatinine, specific gravity, pH, nitrites, and chromates or oxidants. Adulterant testing by the TASC laboratory is provided free of charge.

Commercial adulterants attempting to change pH or interfere with the drug test are readily available via the Internet and local shops. Products containing acids, bases, oxidants and detergents are commonly sold as adulterants in order to destroy the drug in the specimen or interfere with the initial screening test. Examples of such products are Stealth, Urine Luck and Klear. Common household chemicals such as soaps, bleach and cleaning agents are also used to tamper with specimens although less effective as most are detected via routine specimen integrity testing. Unfortunately there are still some products when added to a sample that will not be detected by specimen integrity testing, such as the addition of Visine® eye drops or isopropanol (rubbing alcohol). Therefore it is very critical to any drug testing program to have clients visually monitored to prevent these occurrences.

Unfortunately, it appears that adulterants will continue to pose a problem for unmonitored specimen collections into the future, and the TASC laboratory is committed to deter their usage through effective specimen integrity testing and visually monitored collections.

If there are any questions or concerns please contact the TASC Laboratory at (602) 257-7588

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